

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 776

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

**Stephen Kulik**

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing the Massachusetts Food Policy Council.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Linda Dorcena Forry	12th Suffolk
Stephen M. Brewer	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin
William N. Brownsberger	24th Middlesex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Benjamin Swan	11th Hampden
John D. Keenan	7th Essex
Jonathan Hecht	29th Middlesex
Denis E. Guyer	2nd Berkshire
William Smitty Pignatelli	4th Berkshire
Byron Rushing	9th Suffolk
Harriette L. Chandler	First Worcester
Michael O. Moore	Second Worcester

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3853 OF 2007-2008.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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### AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 20 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 6B the following  
2 section:—

3 Section 6D. (a) There shall be established a Massachusetts food policy council, hereinafter  
4 referred to as the council. The council shall consist of 23 members, 1 of whom shall be a member of the  
5 house representatives who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 1 of  
6 whom shall be a member of the senate who shall be appointed by the president of the senate; 1 of  
7 whom shall be a member of the house representatives who shall be appointed by the minority leader of  
8 the house of representatives; 1 of whom shall be a member of the senate who shall be appointed by the  
9 minority leader of the senate; 19 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be the  
10 secretary of the executive office of administration and finance, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the  
11 commissioner of the department of agricultural resources, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the  
12 commissioner of the department of public health, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner  
13 of the department of education, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the  
14 department of environmental protection, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the  
15 department of transitional assistance, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the undersecretary of the  
16 department of business development, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the president of the  
17 Massachusetts development finance agency, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the  
18 cooperative extension service at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; 1 of whom shall be a  
19 representative of commercial farming, fisheries and aquaculture; 1 of whom shall be a representative of  
20 farmland preservation and conservation; 1 of whom shall be a representative of farmers' markets or  
21 farm and food cooperatives; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the wholesale and retail food  
22 businesses; 1 of whom shall be a representative of "buy local" initiatives and state or local procurement  
23 programs with expertise in accessing locally grown and processed food products; 1 of whom shall be a  
24 representative of food safety and public health protection; 1 of whom shall be a representative of food  
25 banks, food pantries, and organizations and programs addressing nutritional health and hunger; 1 of  
26 whom shall be a representative of an organization promoting development of new farm businesses,  
27 urban and community supported agriculture, community gardening, immigrant and refugee farming,

28 and youth education through agriculture; and 2 of whom shall be individuals who own and manage  
29 farms in the commonwealth.

30 (b) The purpose of the council shall be to develop a comprehensive food policy for the  
31 commonwealth that shall, without limitation: enhance the economic viability of Massachusetts  
32 agriculture; promote food security and the long-term sustainability of the commonwealth's food supply;  
33 expand production and consumption of fresh, healthy, safe and locally produced foods; and improve the  
34 nutritional health of the commonwealth's citizens. The council shall: (i) review existing state programs,  
35 policies and regulations that affect the food system and recommend to the governor and the general  
36 court means for improved coordination or implementation of such programs, policies or regulations to  
37 achieve food policy objectives; and (ii) review any proposed legislation or regulations that will impact  
38 the commonwealth's food system and make recommendations to the governor and the general court  
39 regarding such legislation or regulations. The council may: (i) propose changes to existing state programs  
40 or policies or propose new state programs or policies to help achieve food policy objectives; (ii)  
41 undertake a review of existing federal programs, policies and regulations, or proposed federal legislation  
42 or regulations; (iii) make recommendations to federal agencies or the commonwealth's congressional  
43 delegation; (iv) solicit public input through public hearings or informational sessions; and (v) invite  
44 additional stakeholder participation in subcommittees or working groups to address issues identified by  
45 the council as requiring further study or particular expertise; and conduct research and analysis as  
46 needed.

47 (c) The council shall submit an annual report of its findings, conclusions, proposals and  
48 recommendations as provided in subsection (b) not later than December 31. The report shall be  
49 submitted to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house, the chairs of the joint  
50 committee on public health, the chairs of the joint committee on environment, natural resources and  
51 agriculture, the clerk of the house of representative and the clerk of the senate.

52 (d) The council shall meet periodically, but not less than once annually. All meetings shall be  
53 public.

54 (e) The council shall keep a public record of all meetings, votes and other business.

55 (f) Members of the council shall be appointed for terms of 3 years or until a successor is  
56 appointed. Members shall be eligible to be reappointed and shall serve without compensation. A  
57 chairman of the council shall be elected annually from the membership. The department shall provide  
58 administrative support to the council as requested.

59 (g) In the event of a vacancy on the council, the original appointing authority shall, within 60  
60 days of the occurrence of a vacancy, appoint a new member consistent with subsection (a) to fulfill the  
61 remainder of the unexpired term.